The Canton regime remained independent of the Peking Government in spite of the latter's efforts to bring about a return of Southern allegiance. It even went so far, in October, 1918, as to declare war upon the new President Hsu Shih-chang, who had been elected to succeed the corrupt and unpopular Feng Kuo-chang. It made little headway, however, in the conflict with the North, which merely served to give rival militarists pretexts for reinforcing their armies, and practising further extortion upon the unfortunate population.

A so-called reorganization of the Southern Government was effected in August, 1918, and the name of Dr. Sun was included among its members. But he decided that for the time being he was safer in Shanghai, and declined all invitations to proceed South again. Summing up the situation in the South at the end of the year, the *North China Daily News* remarked that

> "while arrogating to itself the name of Government, the S.W. Federation has no control five miles outside Canton. Within the memory of the most experienced men, brigandage and lawlessness generally have never been so rampant as they are through'all the "Southern provinces.'*

But, as the reader will learn later, this was usually the position whenever Dr. Sun had managed to regain a foothold in the South, even for a few months. The unhappy people invariably found that they had exchanged the "whips" of the allegedly unconstitutional authorities, for the "scorpions" of the so-called constitutional regime.

An Armistice arranged between North

and South in November, 1918, though it did not lead to an agreement between them, enabled China to send